The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) fee program was enacted in July 1993 to help water systems comply with new unfunded federal mandates. The program provides the resources for DHEC to continue as the primary agency responsible for regulation of drinking water systems in the State. Fees paid by the systems are for services related to three key areas: administration, distribution monitoring and source monitoring.

The following is a list of the Safe Drinking Water Act services that either are or will be provided by the Department for: Community Water Systems, Non-Transient Non-Community Water System, Transient Non-community Water System; and State Water Systems.

A. ADMINISTRATION

This component of the fee applies to ALL Community and Non-transient, non-community water systems and is based upon a sliding scale where each system pays the same amount for each service connection within a given range.

Sanitary Surveys

Department staff routinely conduct inspections and identify potential problem areas within the water system. These inspections also provide the water system operator an opportunity to ask questions concerning upcoming regulations or other areas of interest regarding their system.

Water System Permitting

The Department reviews and approves engineering plans and specifications prior to new construction, modification or expansion of any public drinking water system in South Carolina. This review ensures compliance with state and federal regulations which set forth standards for water system design.

Engineering Report Review

The Department reviews Preliminary Engineering Reports and Engineering Evaluations that address water system upgrades, regulatory compliance and/or consolidation. By reviewing these documents, Department staff members can offer suggestions to design engineers prior to the submittal of final plans and specifications of the water system.

Emergency Response

Both the Emergency Response Team and the Bureau of Water staff are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, in the event of a water quality crisis in the state. Our State's potable water supplies have been threatened in the past by both natural and man-made hazards. The Department has responded with personnel and equipment to collect and analyze water samples and to offer advice and coordination of response efforts.

Security Issues

The Department conducts training seminars to assist water systems in bioterroism and security issues. Department staff are also involved in multimedia work-groups to assess vulnerability and response procedures to potential terrorist attacks.

Training

The Department conducts training seminars to keep water systems informed about current and future regulations. Department staff are also involved in operator training schools and are readily available to make presentations to local, state and national organizations concerning drinking water issues.

Technical Assistance

Department staff are often called upon to answer questions from water systems, engineers or the general public concerning water quality, water treatment and water system design and construction Staff members are constantly updating their knowledge of water treatment techniques and sharing this knowledge with systems as they experience problems with water quality. The Department has future plans to expand the technical assistance programs to place more emphasis on on-site investigations and resolution of water quality problems for all system types and sizes.

B. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING: This component of the fee applies to ALL Community and Non-transient non-community water systems (except as noted) and is based upon a fixed charge that varies upon system size. Water testing increases as a system's size. The estimated cost of compliance distribution monitoring is roughly $1,000 to $18,000 per year. This fee component includes sample collection and laboratory analysis for the following:

1. **LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE ANALYSIS: (2 contaminants)** Includes delivery and return of sample bottles. Depending on the population, systems may receive anywhere from 5 to 100 bottles. The majority of the systems are on ultra reduced monitoring (i.e., one round of sampling every 3 years).

2. **ASBESTOS**: One sample between '93 and '95 and a follow up sample between 2002 and 2005 for systems that are vulnerable to asbestos contamination, i.e. A/C pipe. If the initial result is 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

3. **QUARTERLY COLIFORM MONITORING**

4. **TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES/HALOACETIC ACIDS (TTHM/HAA)**: **(9 contaminants) -** For surface water systems and ground water systems under the direct influence of surface water serving 10,000 or more people and that treat their source water. Beginning 2004, all surface water systems serving less than 10,000 population and all groundwater systems that disinfect will be required to perform TTHM/HAA sampling. A minimum of four (4) sites for each permanent plant. This also includes mastered-metered systems that purchase water from a surface water system **and** add additional treatment. Quarterly monitoring.

5. **TOWN SURVEYS**: Performed on all municipalities and regional water systems. Includes a minimum of 10 coliform bacteria samples, heterotrophic plate count samples and chlorine residual measurements collected at representative points throughout the distribution system. Annual monitoring.

C. SOURCE MONITORING: This component does not apply to master-metered systems or any system that obtains all its water from another water system. This component is based upon a fixed charge per source, that varies with system size (not to exceed $5,000.00 currently; proposed is $7,500.00). The estimated cost of compliance monitoring for each source is roughly $2,000 to $10,000 per year Water testing is required for each permanent source (emergency backup wells will be tested for all of the required parameters if placed into service). This fee component includes sample collection and laboratory analyses for the following contaminants:

1. **VOLATILE ORGANICS (VOC): (21 contaminants)** One sample will be collected between 2002-2004 for all groundwater sources and annually for all surface water sources. If any VOC is detected or if the MCL is exceeded, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

2. **INORGANICS, METALS & FLUORIDE: (11 contaminants)** One sample will be collected between 2002-2004 for all groundwater sources and annually for all surface water sources. If the MCL is exceeded, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

3. **NITRATE**: Annually for all sources. If the initial results are 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

4. **NITRITE:** One sample between 2002-2004 for all sources. If the initial result is 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

5. **SYNTHETIC ORGANICS AND SEMI-VOLATILE PESTICIDES (SOC)**: (**35 contaminants** One sample between 2002-2004 for all groundwater sources and annually for all surface water sources. If any SOC is detected or if the MCL is exceeded, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

6. **RADIONUCLIDES**: **(5 contaminants)** The Radionuclide Rule was revised as of September 2001. Samples will now be collected at the source. All sources must have a sample collected prior to December 2003 to determine if grandfathering will be allowed. However, a minimum of one quarter will be required of all sources. Those sources which exceed half the MCL will be placed on quarterly monitoring.

7. **UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR): (11 contaminants)** All systems with a population greater than 10,000 that have a permanent source. The monitoring is based on the type of source. Surface water sources will be monitored four (4) consecutive quarters beginning in 2001. Ground water sources will be monitored twice at six-month intervals beginning in 2001. The initial phase of the UCMR will be completed by December 31, 2003.

III. TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS, STATE WATER SYSTEMS AND WATER VENDING MACHINES:

Fees for these systems are based on a fixed rate. The services listed in the administration section are also provided to these systems.

A. TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

1. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:

a. **QUARTERLY COLIFORM MONITORING:** Department staff will collect and analyze coliform bacteria samples from the distribution system for compliance purposes.

2. SOURCE MONITORING:

a. **NITRATE:** Annually at each source.

b. **NITRITE:** One sample at each source between 2002-2004.

B. STATE WATER SYSTEMS

1. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:

a. **QUARTERLY COLIFORM MONITORING:** Department staff will collect and analyze

coliform bacteria samples in the distribution system for compliance purposes.

2. **SOURCE MONITORING:**

a. **NITRATE:** Department staff will collect and analyze a nitrate sample every 3 to 5 years.

C. **WATER VENDING MACHINES**

QUARTERLY COLIFORM MONITORING: Department staff will collect and analyze coliform bacteria samples for compliance purposes.